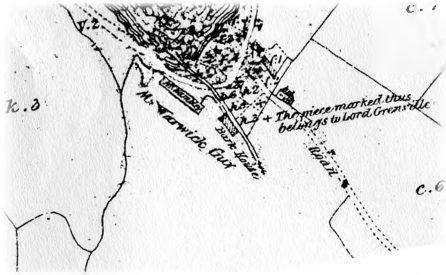
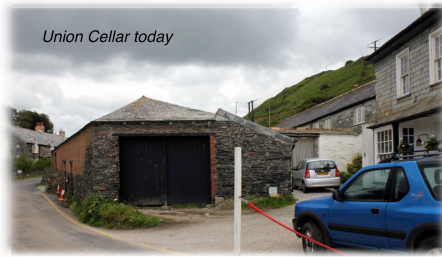


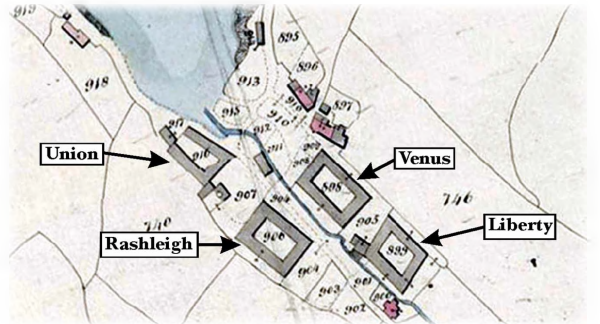
# Port Gaverne



Earl Fortescue's estate map showing Port Gaverne before the cellars, circa 1800



Union Cellar today



Port Gaverne Tithe Map 1841

**Union Cellar:** Earl Fortescue's estate map c1800 illustrates Port Gaverne before the fish cellars were constructed. It shows a long thin rectangular building

of the same size, and in the same location, as the current roadside arm of the Union cellar. This was recorded as owned by Mr [Abraham] Hambley, with the land behind it owned by Mr Warwick Guy. This cellar processed a considerable pilchard catch of 650 hogsheads in the 1802 season. Perhaps it was extended in time for that season. Half that original arm has no socket holes alongside the road at the Port Isaac end, possibly as 10ft poles sticking out this end would block the road up the hill. Taking this into account, as well as the triangular plan, the pressing capacity was probably around 300 hogsheads. In 1841 the cellar was shown as owned by Mark Guy, the son of Warwick Guy. It remained within the Guy family until Mark Guy junior died in December 1918. Subsequently it was purchased by Lady Price, who bequeathed it, along with the adjoining Beach House, Rashleigh Cellar, Lime Kiln, and the foreshore, to the National Trust on her death in the 1950s. The Union cellar is principally accommodation now, but our fishermen use the roadside arm for storage. This arm is one of the prime examples to observe the traditional construction materials used in a fish cellar. The whole cellar is a Grade II listed building.



**Rashleigh Cellar:** On 10th September 1802 Warwick Guy gave a 'three lives' lease [The death of the lessee would terminate an ordinary lease, but a three lives lease terminates either when all three named have died - and it is usually younger sons who are named in the lease - or on the specified end date of the lease, whichever is the earlier.] on a plot of land 90 foot by 240 foot for a £105 consideration to "Edw Fox of Egloshayle, merchant, on behalf of self and partners in Rashleigh Seine". The three lives were "Rob. Were Fox, jun., s. of Rob. Were Fox of Falmouth, merchant, Edw. s. of lessee, and his bro. Geo." All were members of the influential Fox family of Quakers from Falmouth. Edward Fox (1749-1817) of Egloshayle supplied important mineral specimens to the great collector Philip Rashleigh, after whom the cellar is named. Robert Were Fox Junior (1799-1877) became a renowned geologist, scientist and inventor, and was a

prominent member of Victorian and Cornish society. In 1848, he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society. A 90 foot width is typical of a fish cellar, but a 240 foot long plot is much larger than the cellar itself and probably included the current gardens at the landward end, together with half the land between it and the Union Cellar. The dimensions of the building itself are typical, and its pressing capacity would have been around 400 hogsheads. Two sixteenths of the 'Fox' Seine at Port Gaverne was sold in March 1823, an alternative name for the Rashleigh. In March 1837 it was again up for sale and was purchased by Mark Guy for £60. The 1841 tithe apportionment confirms he owned the cellar, which was occupied by his seine company. In 1896, with the coming of the railway to Port Isaac Road the previous year, this cellar was one of the first to be used for holiday accommodation, when church youth groups from London put up hammocks in the old sail lofts during their stay. As with the Union cellar, it remained in the Guy Family until Mark Guy's death, when it was purchased by Lady Price and is now owned by the National Trust. The old smoke house on the right of the entrance is not original and was an early 20th century addition for smoking herrings. The Rashleigh is the best preserved of all our cellars, and is a Grade II listed building.



Liberty Cellar today

**Liberty Cellar:** On 11th May 1803, John Cock gave a three lives lease on a plot of land 160 foot long by 96 foot wide for £110 to "Phil. Ball of Mevagissey, merchant." The three lives were "Phil. Ball and Nich. Truscott Ball, sons of lessee, and Peter Truscott Smith, s. of Peter Smith of Mevagissey, sailmaker". The size is almost identical to the Rashleigh cellar, but it is built into the hillside and old photographs give no evidence of that 3 brick layer on the lane side of the cellar. Perhaps it was thought that pressing poles here would block the narrow lane. Its capacity would be around 300 hogsheads. On 28th July 1825 the seine, including four boats, materials, 7,000 bushels of salt, and oil was auctioned at the Golden Lion, following the collapse of Phillip Ball's Mevagissey Bank the previous autumn. In 1841 it was owned by James Stephens, a Port Isaac shopkeeper. His only child, Mary, married Warwick Richard Guy, the son of Mark Guy senior who owned

Rashleigh and Union cellars. This is undoubtedly how it came into the Guy family, and was part of Mark Guy junior's estate when he died in 1918. On 5th October 1920 it was sold to Rosina Ashton, when it became the Bide-a-While hotel. She had the landward arm removed in 1925 to let more light into the courtyard. In 1957, Nora and Minta Curtis turned the hotel into Gullrock holiday cottages, the name by which it is known today.



Venus Cellar today

**Venus Cellar:** On 9th December 1802, John Cock gave a 'three life' lease on a plot of land 160 foot long by 96 foot wide for £110 to "Jn. Pearce of Mevagissey, merchant, and Wm. Blake of St. Mawes, merchant (part owners of pilchard seine about to be fitted out at Port Gavern Haven in Endellion, to be called the Venus seine), on behalf of other part owners." The three lives were "Wm., s. of Jn. Sampson Jago of Mevagissey, merchant, Jn., s. of Jn. Pearce, lessee, and Rob., s. of Wm. Blake lessee" Identical in size to the Liberty cellar, and also built into the hillside, it probably had the same capacity of around 300 hogsheads. As with the Liberty cellar, in 1841 it was owned by James Stephens, and was part of Mark Guy junior's estate when he died in 1918. In the subsequent sale in 1920, the cellar was split into two parcels of land. There was a "dwelling house and adjacent cellar and garden" sold to Jo Honey (now Honey Cellars), with the residue of "3 dwelling-houses with stores and premises called Venus cellars, with 2 adj. gdns." to Mark Thos. Bishop (now Green Door holiday cottages).

**PILCHARD SEINES, Seining Materials, Boats, Salt, Leasehold Cellars, &c.,**  
At Port Gaverne, in the Parish of Endellion, Cornwall.

**TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION,** at the Cellars belonging to the FOX and RASHLEIGH PILCHARD SEINES, at Port Gaverne, by **Mr. William Jennings, Auctioneer.** On WEDNESDAY, 22nd day of March next, at Nine o'Clock in the Morning; all the extensive STORES and MATERIALS belonging to the said

**PILCHARD SEINES,**  
CONSISTING OF  
2000 fathoms of Net in excellent condition.  
35 cwt. of Net, of Second Quality.  
15 cwt. of Head and Foot Ropes.  
20 cwt. of Mooring Ropes and Warps.  
20 cwt. of Old Tack.  
35 cwt. of good Cork.  
16 cwt. of Lead.  
25 Seine Batches.  
2 Sets of Mooring and Warping Graspers.  
3 Boats (Seine Boat, Follower and Lurker), with Double Sets of Oars, Masts, Yards, Capsains, and Biers.  
A large quantity of Poles, Bucklers, Plugs, Press-stones, several hundred Pilchard Casks and Pickle Casks, and a variety of other Articles; together with about

**5000 Bushels of British Salt,** which has been in the Cellar 20 years and upwards.

Also, on the same day, at the House of Mr. EDWARD RICHARDS, at Port Gaverne aforesaid, at Seven o'Clock in the Evening, will be SOLD BY AUCTION, for the remainder of a Term of 4 score and 19 years, determinable on the Death of the Survivor of Three Healthy Lives, aged respectively 48, 43, and 41 years, with a right of adding another life on the dropping of the first of the said lives, on the payment of £25.

ALL THOSE  
**COMMODIOUS CELLARS,** Together with the Appurtenances and all the Fixtures therein, situate at Port Gaverne aforesaid, and called or known by the name of the RASHLEIGH PILCHARD SEINE CELLARS. Subject to the yearly rent of £1.

A considerable portion of the Net is of superior quality, and well adapted for the repairs of Seines, &c.; and the residue for Gardening and other purposes. Many hundred weight of the Ropes are almost as good as new, and may be applied for Seine and Farm purposes, and will be found worthy the attention of Purchasers.

\* \* \* The whole of the above Seines and Materials is intended to be Sold in one day, and as the same will be offered in suitable Lots, an early attendance is particularly requested.

For a view of the said Cellars, and the Stores and Materials therein, application may be made one Week previous to the Sale, at the Cellars; and all further particulars known by applying (if by letter post-paid) to FRANCIS BROWN HAMBLY, Esq., Truro, near Camelford; GEORGE FOX, Esq., Kingsbridge; ALBERT FOX, Esq., Falmouth; Mr. PETER FRENZ, Mercatree; or at the Office of

**Mr. E. Hambly,**  
Attorney-at-Law, Wadebridge,  
Wadebridge, 23th February, 1827.

*Rashleigh Cellars sale advert from the Royal Cornwall Gazette, in the edition of 3rd March 1837*